Programme	No. of projects sanctioned From 1995-96 till date	Funds released (Rs. in Lakhs)
Desert Development Programme (DDP)	536	6199.63
Drought-Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)	274	1718.86

These funds are to be utilized for watershed development programmes in accordance with the provisions contained in the Guidance for Watershed Development.

(b) There is no report regarding misuse and misappropriation of funds.

Connectivity of Ganga river at Farrakha

1026. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experts and engineers have observed that the connectivity on the Ganga river at Farrakha which joins North and South Bengal is in an extremely dilapidated condition which could give way any time;

(b) if so, whether Government have called for any special report from their official experts in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what immediate steps are proposed to be taken in this regard so as to prevent any mishap or accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Farrakka Barrage Project headed by Member (D and R), Central Water Commission, New Delhi and consisting of experts drawn from various organizations have visited the Project site during February, 2003 and have found that there is no danger to the bridge and the barrage. Adequate protection measure in the upstream and downstream of the barrage are taken every year as per the advice of the TAC, Farrakka Barrage Project to ensure the safety of the Project.